



A GUIDE FOR PARENTS

Your children are entering a world that looks much different than the one you found when you finished school. Today's graduates find themselves in a highly competitive, technology-driven and constantly fluctuating marketplace. Unfortunately, they're not always prepared for this complex world. That's where Arizona's School To Work system comes in.

With your help, School To Work can give your children what they need. School To Work helps teach Arizona students the importance of further education or training, and gives them the skills - both academic and technical - for pursuing a solid career. And your participation in School To Work will help not only your children, but the entire community. It's a real opportunity to make a real difference.

HOW PARENTS BENEFIT FROM SCHOOL TO WORK

When you participate in School To Work in your community, you'll be helping your children to succeed both now and long into the future. Here's how:

More motivated children. With the School To Work system, students begin to see clearly why learning matters. Through exposure to the career and education options available to them after high school, they understand more completely why what they're studying in school will have a tremendous impact on what they do in the future. With that knowledge, they become more motivated to do well in classes and stay in school.

Achievable independence. As your children are given the skills, knowledge and experience they need to build a career, you can rest easy knowing that School To Work places economic independence well within their sights. Career counseling, work experience, and opportunities for exploring different career options translate into children who have a sense of purpose and direction - and a plan to get there.

An improved community. Through School To Work partnerships and opportunities, the entire community benefits. A well-educated, well-trained and well-positioned workforce vitalizes the economy, reduces turnover at local businesses and provides stability for the region.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

In School To Work partnerships, parents assist employers and educators in the development of curriculum and on-the-job training that gives their sons and daughters every advantage when it comes time to make the transition from school to work.

In your home -

Talk about career planning with your children. Tell them about your work and the kinds of tasks you are expected to perform. Let them know the kind of skills and experience people need to get hired at your workplace.

Encourage your children to take advantage of School To Work options at their school, including internships, high-tech training programs and job-mentoring opportunities.

In your workplace -

Approach others in your organization and develop a plan for School To Work involvement. Create opportunities for work experience and training in partnerships with your children's schools.

Take your children to work with you. Help them connect the experience to what they are learning in school.

Become a mentor and host worksite tours and job shadowing days for students at your children's schools.

In your schools -

Talk to school administrators, counselors and teachers about developing School To Work initiatives.

Give career talks at your children's schools and meet with their teachers. Help them integrate a real world context into the curriculum using occupational information from your workplace.

In your community -

Become an advocate for School To Work. Speak at business associations, community organizations, school board meetings, and to your friends about the need to develop Arizona's School To Work system.

THE ARIZONA SCHOOL TO WORK SYSTEM

Arizona's School To Work system is an evolving network of business/school partnerships that integrates work and learning in new ways. It is designed to give *all* of Arizona's youth a better chance at a quality life, and to provide employers with a larger pool of higher-skilled workers. Through on-the-job experience, an integrated curriculum, and greater, more complete career awareness, students leave school well-prepared for both the worlds of work and higher education.

For more complete information on how *you* can get involved in the Cochise County School To Work effort, call (520) 515-5246.

"You cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future."

- Franklin D. Roosevelt



WHAT IS SCHOOL TO WORK?

Every year more than one million teens in our country start high school. But far too many don't graduate. Too many students just don't see the relevance of school. Many drop out. Many who stay in school have undecided or unrealistic career plans. Seldom do young people leaving school, even with a diploma, have the training and skills necessary to connect with anything but minimum-wage, dead-end jobs.

The School To Work Opportunities Act of 1994 provides seed money to States and local partnerships of business, labor, government, education and community organizations to develop School To Work systems that provide students with:

Relevant education, allowing students to explore different careers, see what skills are required in that field of work and understand the importance of their school work.

Opportunities to develop career-specific skills through work-based experiences such as internships, mentoring and specialized job training programs.

Ways to integrate classroom and on-the-job instruction to maintain the connection between school and work.

There is no single answer to the question "What is School To Work?" It is different for every community. School To Work can include many existing job training programs like Workforce Compact, Coop, Tech Prep and Youth Fair Chance. It can also include new programs developed by local partnerships, such as youth apprenticeship, job shadowing, mentoring, career academics and school-sponsored enterprises. The shape of the School To Work system will depend on the vision and employer/school partnerships developed in each community.

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For more information on School To Work activities in your area, call the Cochise County Consortium of School To Work at (520) 515-5246.